

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 16 as with the following amended paragraph:

The external flexible membrane 118 is a generally circular sheet formed of a flexible and elastic material, such as chloroprene, ethylene propylene rubber or silicone. External flexible membrane 118 can include an inner portion 180 with an outer surface 192, which provides a receiving surface 198 or mounting surface for a substrate, an annular edge portion 182 which extends to be clamped between the retaining ring 110 and the base 104. The external membrane 118 can also include a flexible lip portion 186 to provide an active-flap lip seal during chucking of the substrate as discussed in U.S. Patent No. 6,210,255, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated by reference. The bottom surface of a central portion 200 of the internal membrane 116 may be textured, e.g., with small grooves, to ensure that fluid can flow between the internal and external membranes when they are in contact.